

Rom. 14:19 So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another.



# THE LENEXA EDIFIER



John 8:32

"And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free"

March 20, 2022

## OUR GOSPEL MEETING

With Tim Jennings

### THE LENEXA CHURCH OF CHRIST INVITES YOU TO A GOSPEL MEETING MARCH 27-30, 2022

Following is the Schedule of Lessons:

Sunday AM Bible Class - 9:30 AM  
**ARISE AND BUILD**

Sunday AM Worship - 10:20 AM  
**THE JOY OF SERVICE**

Sunday PM Worship - 5:00 PM  
**LIVING IN THE SHADOW OF BABEL**

Monday Night Lesson - 7:00 PM  
**LOVE LIKE GOD LOVES**

Tuesday Night Lesson - 7:00 PM  
**DO NOT FEAR, ONLY BELIEVE**

Wednesday Night Lesson - 7:00 PM  
**SPEAK MORE CAREFULLY**

**Come let us learn the value of knowing  
Jesus Christ and learning from Him.**

### Are You Halting Between Opinions?

by Jim Stauffer

*"And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word."* (1 Kings 18:21) These were

the words of the prophet Elijah to Israel as he prepared for his contest with the prophets of Baal. There is wisdom in these words even if we are talking about less serious matters than those eternal. One cannot go both ways at the same time. Cannot be committed to opposite principles simultaneously. Jesus said, *"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."* (Matthew 6:24) We must choose which way we will go, which master we will serve.

A person who fails to make the choice fails to serve either very well. We actually become much like the Laodiceans, who were trying to do just what the Lord says we cannot. *"I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth."* (Revelation 3:15-16)

We must do as Elijah challenged Israel. We must make the best, wisest, most logical decision. Who should I serve? Should I serve the God of heaven Who has promised all spiritual blessings in His Son Jesus? Or should I serve Satan, who is the Prince of this world who offers me temporary satisfaction for my carnal desires. I can enjoy pleasing my body first and foremost and that pleasure is immediate and only temporary needing to be repeated continually. Or I can make the choice to sacrifice in the immediacy to enable my eternal being to enjoy eternal bliss when this life is over. You see, I will live eternally when this life is over, the choice I make here will determine where I spend my eternity.

Jesus tells me there are many things I can enjoy here that will prevent me from living with Him in heaven. John says it this way, *"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world,*

*the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.” (1 John 2:15–17)* Jesus teaches the same principle in His Sermon of the Mount, *“And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.” (Matthew 5:29–30)*

Elijah makes a very logical appeal to Israel and then backs it up with evidence when he with God’s approval and power, provides a contrast between the power of God and the non-existent power of Baal. Their response at this demonstration was, *“And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.” (1 Kings 18:39)* God has given us the greatest demonstration of all in the resurrection of Christ from the dead and His ascension to the right hand of the Father. We must halt no longer between the desires of the flesh and spirit and choose spirit for in it is life **(John 6:63; Romans 8:6; Deuteronomy 30:19).**

It is examples such as this that Paul says should provide hope when we persevere with the encouragement of the Scriptures **(Romans 15:4).**

## THREE MEN REBEL AGAINST HYPOCRISY

*by Bill Hall*

Three men rebel against hypocrisy, but they vary greatly in their reactions. **The first man** turns to total moral abandonment. He throws off all restraint as he gives himself to the fulfillment of every fleshly desire. “Self” becomes his god. He hardens himself to the tears of his family as he goes out to do what he wants to do. His “justification” for his shameful conduct: “At least I’m not a hypocrite!”

**The second man** goes to an opposite extreme. He is fed up with the weakness and hypocrisy that he sees in all the churches, and he is not going to be like such people. He will become a Christian and from the beginning “he’s going to live it.” He will be an example of what a Christian really ought to be. To him, the cure for hypocrisy is perfection.

**The third man** wants to avoid hypocrisy in his life,

but at the same time, he has a deep sense of his own imperfection. So he takes on no air of infallibility, but sets out to be genuine. His genuineness soon becomes apparent to others. He does not claim perfection, but he strives for perfection. As he worships God, he does not claim to be perfect as a worshiper, but when the singing begins he gives his heart to what he’s doing; when the prayer is led, he listens and makes the prayer his prayer; during the supper he meditates on the suffering of his Lord; and throughout the sermon he participates in a study of God’s word; if his mind wanders, he brings it back, and when the worship period ends he asks God to forgive him for his failure and to accept his worship in spite of his imperfection.

When he goes to his job, he does not claim perfection among his fellow workers, but they know that he will try to give eight hours of work for eight hours of pay; that he is trustworthy; that he is pure in his speech and life; and that if he is ever overcome by pressures around him to sin, he will humbly seek the forgiveness of those who have been wronged.

He is the same in his home. His family respects him because he is genuine and does not claim strength and goodness beyond reality. His family sees his faults, but his one redeeming quality that enables him to maintain their respect is his ability to say, “I’m sorry.” In every area of his life, he walks humbly before his God and his fellowman.

**Our third man** has found the true cure for hypocrisy. **The first man**, if he does not repent, will some day be a miserable wretch, his life completely torn and shattered. **The second man** is headed for disillusionment. His goals are unreal; his outlook is totally wrong. But the man who walks humbly with his God and is wholly free from guile is a blessed man indeed. He is in life and attitude what God wants him to be, and he lives in hope of heaven. *“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:3)*

## The Church Book (Earl Kimbrough)

**In a 1903 sermon** on stewardship, W.D. Frazee told a story about a member of the church whom he called “brother Brown”. The man was the owner of a fine farm in the Blue Grass region of Kentucky. His prosperity increased as his acreage and money grew. He lived in a respectable mansion in the midst of abundant material splendor, but his presence in the services of the church became less and less frequent.

**John Allen Gano**, the preacher for the church, paid the negligent brother a visit, hoping to rekindle his faithfulness. But before the preacher could state the

reason for his coming, brother Brown anticipated a rebuke and an admonition. Trying to disarm the preacher, he said: "Brother Gano, take my name off the church book".

"**I called, Brother Brown,**" Gano said, "to see if you could not take some wood over to Sister Jones. She is out of wood and the children are suffering from the cold." "**Certainly, I can,**" he replied. "I did not know they were out of wood." Then he turned to a servant and said, "Sam, put a load of wood on the wagon, and take it to sister Jones." Sister Brown overheard the conversation and hurriedly brought a supply of food from her pantry for the widow and her children. Brown himself followed the wagon to the cabin door and, "saw the half-clad children, shivering over the dying embers, and witnessed with how they devoured the bread and butter, and noted the teardrops start from the eye of sister Jones, as she thanked him."

**At that very moment**, as he beheld the scene, a change came over the brother Brown. "Curtains were hoisted, and God's love was once more permitted to shine through the window of his mind, upon the tables of a heart that was want of use, and that had grown cold in the Masters service." (W.D. Frazee, Reminiscences and Sermons). But the story does not end there.

**The following Sunday**, brother Brown was present for the services and occupied a front seat in the assembly. Before leaving that day, he said to the preacher: "Brother Gano, don't take my name off the book." His practice of stewardship and relieving a widow and her children perhaps made him see his own need for God. The joy and warmth of helping others in their want drew him back to the One from whom his own help came.

**Sincerely caring for** the spiritual and material needs of widows, orphans, and others cannot replace our further duty to worship and serve God, but if more Christians would become involved in using their time, money, and opportunities to help others, especially Christians, as they are taught in the New Testament (**Jam. 1:27, Gal. 6:10**), perhaps more hearts would be filled with the love of God and fewer brethren would have their names removed from the church book. A great need in the Lord's church today is for there to be less faultfinding, less cold hearted unconcerned for others, and more genuine personal stewardship, along with an earnest effort to add all of the Christian graces (**2 Pet. 1: 5-11**). This would go far toward building the faith of the saints and strengthening congregations of the Lord everywhere.

***Taken from 25th Street Church Bulletin***

## **Humbled by Courage**

As I write these words it is nearing the third week of the invasion of Ukraine by the forces of Russia. That is a full 18 days longer than we are told Mr. Putin thought it would take. By now I am sure that we have all seen, at one time or another, the video clip of the Russian State News Service editor who bravely went behind the anchor while on the air with a sign saying that viewers were being lied to by their leaders. That is no small act of courage in a country where even criticizing the leader can get you killed, as witnessed by the 'discovery' this week of the body in a suitcase of a mere model who described Putin as a psychopath last year. The editor's actions were incredibly brave, as are those of the 16,000 protestors who have been arrested so far by the security forces.

This set me to thinking. Would I be that brave in standing up for Christ? Jesus said in **Matthew 10:32f**, *"Every one therefore who shall confess me before men, him will I also confess before my Father who is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father who is in heaven."* It seems like a high bar to reach, but millions have done so over the last few thousand years, and millions more will do so in the future. The Hebrew writer said, *"Therefore let us also, seeing we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising shame, and hath sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."* (**Hebrews 12:1f**)

I believe we are entering an era where, as Thomas Paine wrote so long ago wrote, "These are the times which try men's souls." Let us prepare ourselves!

***Cleveland Reddinger***

*"and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near."* (**Hebrews 10:24-25**)



**Psa. 1:1** *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.*

## **HOURS OF WORSHIP**

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study

Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship

Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship

Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

***Visitors welcome***

***We conduct in home Bible Studies***

***We offer Correspondence Courses***

**Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer**

## **OUR ADDRESS IS:**

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***Check out the following websites***

facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist

lenexachurchofchrist.org

**Elders: Ron Peck**

**Jim Stauffer**

**Deacons: Bill Miller**

**Joe Hurd**

## **NEWS AND NOTES:**

### **SICK IN NEED OF PRAYERS:**

JAN PATRICK, ALMA  
BAUMGARTNER, DENESE GORING,  
BROOKLYN BOYER, TRACY  
RICHARDSON, MATT BASSFORD,  
DAVID & JOANNE, BECKLEY, MARK  
WALKER AND STEVE WIMP.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS:  
**REVELATION - BILL MILLER**

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS  
**GENESIS - JIM STAUFFER**

SUNDAY MORNING SERMON: THE  
POWER, THE NECESSITY AND THE  
RESULTS OF PREACHING



## ***What Must I Do To Be Saved?***

**Hear** the gospel - Romans 10:17

**Believe** in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

**Repent** of sins - Acts 17:30

**Confess** Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

**Be Baptized** for remission of sins

Acts 2:38

**Be Faithful** unto death - Revelation 2:10